(a) whether Government propose to declare some more waterways as national waterways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) On the basis of the results of hydrographic and techno-economic studies done, the Government have initiated steps to declare the Brahmaputra (stretch between Sadiya and Dhubri) as National Waterway. The decision in respect of remaining waterways will depend on the allocation of funds and results of techno-economic feasibility studies and hydrographic surveys.

Price control of diabetic drugs

972. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that diabetic control programme is covered under National Health Programme;

(b) if so, what are the drugs required for the control of diabetes; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the drugs required for this programme would be under price control indicating which of the drugs have been placed under price control category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) A District Diabetic Control Programme has been taken up on a pilot basis in five districts during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) Drugs generally used for the treatment of diabetes are:—

Insulin injection

Glibenclamide

Tolbutamide

Chlerpropamide

Penfermin

Glihizide

(c) Insulin and Glibendamide are covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order 1987 announced by the Ministry of Industry, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

C.G.H.S. dispensaries in Bihar

973. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of CGHS dispensaries operating in Bihar at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration opening new dispensaries in Bihar the year 1988-89; and

(c) if so, what are the places earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) At present, five allopathic dispensaries are functioning in Patna, Bihar. One more allopathic dispensary is likely to be opened in Ranchi, Bihar during the year 1988-89.

Permission to State Governments to levy entry tax

974. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to various States to levy entry tax on vehicles entering the States;

(b) whether there is any policy of Government to do away with octroi etc. to encourage free flow of traffic and trade from one State to another;

(c) whether Bihar has also been permitted to levy entry tax on vehicles entering the State;

(d) if so, what is the justification to allow the levy of entry tax; and

(e) whether this type of levy of entry tax do not violate the policy of the Government narrated in part (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. Permission has been accorded to Government of Maharashtra to the Entry Tax on Motor Vehicles into Local Areas.

(b) The Central Government is in favour of abolishing Octroi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Entry Tax on Motor Vehicles, levied by the Government of Maharashtra, envisages reducing the disparity, prevalent amongst various States and Union Territories as a result of levying low rates of Sales Tax as compared to the sales tax rates prevalent in Maharashtra. This tax is not likely to create any hindrance to the free flow of traffic, as vehicles merely passing through Maharashtra or being temporarily used in the State would not be subject to the tax and only those vehicles required to be registered in Maharashtra under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, would be liable to pay the tax.

Withdrawal of the New Year greetings by Air India/Indian Airlines

975. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the Hindi daily, 'Nav Bharat Times' dated January 2, 1988 that Air India/Indian Airlines had despatched a large number of telex messages to withdraw/withhold its New Year greetings etc.;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on all communications for this purpose and also on diaries, calendars, greeting cards, etc. already printed or distributed for the New Year; and

(c) whether the messages sent were according to instructions from finance ministry to economise on wasteful expenditure, if so, the reasons for the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines did not print any Calendars|Diaries|Greeting Cards for 1988. As regards Air India, the report that Air India sent hundreds of messages for withdrawing|withholding greeting cards and calendars is erroneous. The Ministry of Finance had issued instructions in November, 1987 that no expenditure should be incurred from Government funds on printing and distribution of Calendars|Diaries|Greeting Cards in connection with the new year and other festivals.

By the time these instructions were received by Air India they were already distributing calendars|greetings cards for the year 1988. Air India have incurred the following expenditure on thes items:—

1. Diaries	Rs. 5,50,000|-
2. Calendars	Rs. 40,42,250|-
3. Greeting Cards	Rs. 3,10,882|-

Renovation of the Airliner for the purpose of P.Ms visit to Canada and U.S.A. etc.

976. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of the renovations of the Airliner Jet 747 and the stand by one for use during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Canada, USA, etc. and the foreign exchange components therein;

(b) names of countries from which various items were imported for the purpose and at what cost;

(c) the expenditure and also foreign exchange components therein incurred by Government in connection with this trip;

(d) whether some flights of Air India were cancelled as a consequence thereof;